

Flathead County EMS Advisory Committee
Operations Subcommittee
April 26th 2010

Attendance:

John Leach	Dan Diehl	Craig Williams	Richard Briles MD.
Kris Long	Tom Kennelly	Chuck Curry	
Mary Granger	Lance Westgard	Amanda Norenberg	

Agenda items included:

- Single Medical Director Structure
 - The Committee would like to be assured that Dr. Briles can effectively oversee the entire County. Discussion expressing concerns about this were expressed. The committee feels a system of support must be in place for Dr. Briles to succeed. There were a number of components the committee felt had to be in place. Contracts with Dr. Briles and each unit must be written. Contracts with Dr. Briles and each authorized EMT must be in place, but members wondered if each Unit Medical Advisor could handle that step since they would be more involved in verifying their skills and recommending authorization to Dr. Briles. Concern for communication was discussed. Members felt it essential for Dr. Briles to establish a workable system to communicate with the Unit Medical Advisors.
- Other Contracts for Service.
 - The committee wanted to look at sample of contracts for service, Agreements for mutual Aid between departments, agreements for transfer of patients BLS to ALS and methods of compensation for the unit initiating the patient care. Contract for service development recommendations need to begin.
- Duties of the Unit Medical Advisors and County Medical Director – What can we expect of these positions?

Advisor duties

Run reviews
Endorsements verification
Recommend Authorization of EMT's to
Medical Director

Co. Medical Director Duties

Medication prescriptions
Endorsement approval per agency
Endorsement authorization

Policy and procedure approval
Memorandum of understanding
between the advisor and Briles
Medical Director Agreement with Agencies

- Funding Formula:

Kris Long and Mary Granger were asked by the Board to adjust the formula, 60/40 vs. 50/50. The spreadsheets were set up in a way so the formulas could be compared. After the 60% readiness and 40% operations formula was examined Whitefish and Kalispell asked the committee to consider a 40/60 ratio. Discussion ensued about definition of a "unit". Dan Diehl asked that he be given only one unit as they will only have one ambulance ready for response. Whitefish, Evergreen and Three Rivers felt they could staff their second units and were given half a unit for those. Concerns were also expressed about Big Mountain and their reluctance to really be available to the county. Discussion ensued about Olney's ability to provide transportation. The Committee discussed the unit factor in the formula. This number reflects the number of ambulances you have ready 24 hours a day 7 days a week and 365 days a year. This number may change after evaluation of the above criteria.

Kris and Mary explained the 50/50 formula was voted on by the Advisory committee unanimously. Though the Board has asked for variances in the formula the original 50/50 recommendation will stand. The Board will be voting on the Funding Formula Tuesday April 27th, 2010. After discussion Kalispell Fire Department and Whitefish Fire Department agreed on the 40/60 formula and Mary and Kris will present all variances to the board tomorrow, instructing the board that they will have to decide which formula they want to utilize.

Columbia Falls Fire has asked to be readmitted to the formula for future disbursements. There also was discussion that Bigfork Fire will also be licensed soon as a QRU, and will have to be added to the list for next year.

Whitefish explained the fact that they transport from Olney. Olney may be licensed as a transport agency but they do not transport on a consistent behavior. Chief Kennelly can't recall them ever transporting. The formula at this time does not reflect this and other transport issues. A future funding formula suggestion by Chuck Curry was discussed. Chucks suggestion was a pure transport based formula. The new CAD system has the ability to retrieve actual transport numbers. This will not take in to account 911 dispatches. The formula will count only transports which in turn will fund the work done. This will take away questions regarding run volume and give incentive to those who want to boost their responses/transports to increase their share of the allocations. This is a suggestion and will be discussed further at a later date.

Future Topics: The funding formula will be finalized with the development of the EMS Plan and Service contracts.

Next meeting will be 5/10/10, 8 am at the 911 center. We will need to recruit a new member to this committee as Tonya Buxton's work schedule does not allow her to participate.